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like disorder, is no proof of the hereditary basis of the mental disease, unless we are able to state the exact nature and cause of the malady. Terms like insanity, psychosis, or imbecility found affixed to the names of various royal personages throughout the book, are mere hints that the Nemesis of heredity is at work grinding slowly but surely. These terms fail to furnish the more exact information of what particular type of mental disease was transmitted. Periodic depressions and exaltations (manic-depressive insanity), the deterioration associated with the adult onset of chorea (Huntington's chorea), certain types of adolescent insanity (dementia præcox), moral deficiencies, alcoholism, or epilepsy, are particularly prone to run in certain families and appear as like or closely allied disorders in the offspring. It is only under these conditions that we can speak of an hereditary stigma. But if an ancestor became insane from trauma, or was the victim of a febrile delirium or of some poison, accidentally ingested, and if a mental disease of a different or even of a like accidental type appeared in the offspring or collateral branches, it would be transcending all facts to speak of heredity under these conditions. The classification of intellect and morals into ten grades, while admirable for the purpose of comparative study, is rather artificial and does not possess that flexibility which is so characteristic of individual moral and mental tendencies. While the book lacks in the few details pointed out above, yet otherwise it is admirable as a study of the psychology of history and of the relentless grasp of general hereditary factors on certain families. The use of Galton's law of ancestral heredity and of modern biometrical methods is a novel one, the results are admirable and worthy of a wider application. The book takes up in detail the different houses and branches of the principal European countries, while the bibliography is unusually complete and offers a good working basis for all future investigators along these lines. The illustrations are admirable, especially those showing the Hapsburg lip. The various tables and pedigrees of the different royal families show a wide grasp of the subject and enable one to tell at a glance the mental and moral attributes of the various royal personages and their relation to one another in the same group.

I. H. CORIAT.

L'Année psychologique. Publiée par A. BINET. Douzième année, 1906. Paris, Masson et Cie. pp. 672.

This volume of the *Année psychologique* divides, in the usual way, into original articles, general reviews of the past year, and critical notices of psychological works.

The original articles, although not all equally satisfactory, are of quite exceptional range and interest, and the editor is to be heartily congratulated upon the variety and quality of the work which he has brought together. The series opens with a paper, by MM. Binet and Simon, on physiological and social poverty, in which the authors (taking advantage of a recent proposal to issue medical report-cards for school children) recommend certain methods of testing children for backwardness, etc., with a view to the juster distribution of state aid. In the following article, M. Bonnier discusses the mental status of the bees, and decides for intelligence as against reflex action. M. Treves contributes an elaborate study of work, fatigue, and effort, in the course of which he describes new instruments and methods, the results of which lead to valuable and definite results. M. de Sanctis discusses the types and degrees of mental defect, and indicates a method of test. M. Bourdon presents an experimental investigation of the influence of centrifugal force upon the perception of the vertical. M. Blaringhem writes upon the idea of species and the theory of mutation as set forth by de Vries. M. Binet enters a plea for a

philosophy of mind, in the course of which he scores unmercifully Haeckel's recent *Riddles of the Universe*. M. Bohn criticises the terms tropism, reflex, and intelligence, and seeks to show that the work of Jennings is the complement of that of Loeb. M. Larguier des Bancelles contributes an important and very readable paper on the psychology of evidence. M. Binet enters upon certain questions of scientific pedagogy, discussing in collaboration with M. Simon the measurement of visual and auditory acuity, and in collaboration with M. Vaney various tests of intelligence and the correct attitude to be adopted in writing. M. Claparède supplies a critical article upon the psychology of the court-room. Finally, Professor Mach gives a succinct account of his views upon the relation of physics to psychology.

There follow general reviews of a number of fields more or less directly related to psychology: anatomy of the nervous system (Van Gehuchten), general physiology of nerve cells and fibres (Friedericq), sensation (Nuel), pedagogy (Chabot), æsthetics (Souriau), linguistics (Meillet), comparative psychology (Bohn), criminological statistics (Lacassagne and Martin), anthropology (Deniker), abnormal psychology (Decroly), metapsychics (!) (Maxwell), religious psychology (Leuba), philosophy (Malapert), mental pathology (Leroy), pathology of the nervous system (Guillain). The consequence of this extended programme is that very little space is left for critical notices of psychological books and articles; so that we have the somewhat paradoxical result of an *Année psychologique* with the central and, perhaps, the most important aspects of psychology crowded out. The editor, however, hopes to remedy this defect in future numbers by bringing all the principal divisions of psychology within the domain of the general review.

P. E. WINTER.

Outlines of the Evolution of Weights and Measures and the Metric System. By W. HALLOCK and H. T. WADE. New York. The Macmillan Co., 1906. pp. xi, 304.

The authors of this work propose "to consider briefly and systematically the general history of weights and measures, the scientific methods by which units and standards have been determined, the concrete standards by which the units are represented, and the present aspect of modern systems of weights and measures, together with the difficulties and advantages involved in any proposed changes." They have accordingly aimed to supply, first, an introduction to metrological science designed especially for the student entering on the study of physics; and, secondly, such a discussion of the present status as may lead to an intelligent understanding of the issues involved in the proposed adoption of the metric system by English-speaking peoples. The ten chapters into which the work is divided deal with the beginnings and development of the science of metrology; the original development of the metric system; the extension of this system throughout Europe and elsewhere; the weights and measures of the United States; the characteristics and principles of the modern metric system; its use in commerce, in manufacturing and engineering, and in medicine and pharmacy; the international electrical units; standards and comparison. An appendix gives tables of equivalents and useful constants.

The authors have thus compiled an interesting, and, so far as the layman may judge, an accurate and useful book. Themselves supporters of the metric propaganda, they have not overloaded their pages with controversial matter, but preserve throughout a tone of scientific impartiality. Numerous references to original sources ena-